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12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 13 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 14 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

15 IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
 16 PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT
 17 LITIGATION

18 This Document Relates to:

19 ALL ACTIONS

20 Case No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB

21 **DEFENDANT UBER TECHNOLOGIES,
 22 INC., RAISER, LLC, AND RAISER-CA,
 23 LLC'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF UBER'S
 24 PRIVILEGE CLAIMS CHALLENGED BY
 25 PLAINTIFFS PURSUANT TO SPECIAL
 26 MASTER ORDER NO. 4, § III, ¶ 4 (DKT.
 27 2933)**

1 Pursuant to Special Master Order No. 4, III, ¶ 4 (Dkt. 2933), Defendants submit this brief in
 2 support of Uber's privilege assertions for documents it has claw backed on May 7, 2025 pursuant to
 3 Pretrial Order No. 14. Uber respectfully requests that the Special Master uphold Uber's privilege
 4 claims for the 10 documents Plaintiffs have challenged.¹

5 Uber incorporates by reference the legal standard and arguments set forth in its prior briefing
 6 (Dkts. 2433, 2461, 2528, 2544, and 2580). As further support for its privilege claims, Uber provides
 7 the arguments and factual support listed below, including the declaration from Scott Binnings, Uber's
 8 Associate General Counsel, Safety and Core Services (Ex. A). The applicable legal standards and
 9 arguments outlined below and in prior briefs, the attached declarations from in-house counsel, and the
 10 factual material previously provided to the Special Master,² when reviewed in conjunction with the
 11 challenged documents and the associated metadata fields, establish that the documents at issue are
 12 privileged.

13 **I. Uber Has Appropriately Exercised Its Right To Claw Back Privileged Documents.**

14 The documents submitted for the Special Master's review should remain protected as
 15 privileged, and subject to other applicable protections, notwithstanding prior production. Uber has
 16 appropriately exercised its clawback rights under Stipulated Pretrial Order No. 14: Federal Rule of
 17 Evidence 502(d) and Privilege Materials ("PTO 14") (Dkt. 396). PTO 14 provides that "the production
 18 of any privileged or otherwise protected or exempted information in this case ***shall not be deemed a***
 19 ***waiver or impairment of any claim of privilege or protection in this case*** or in any other federal or
 20 state proceeding, including, but not limited to, the attorney-client privilege, the protection afforded to
 21 work product materials, statutory privileges and protections, or the subject matter thereof, as to the
 22 produced document and any related material." PTO 14, Sec. B.2 (emphasis added).

23
 24 ¹ Plaintiffs initially challenged 18 documents, but as the parties informed the Special Master over
 25 email on June 1, 2025, the parties resolved their dispute concerning 8 of the 18 documents.

26 ² As requested by the Special Master, Uber has provided: (1) a glossary of terms commonly used in
 27 disputed documents, (2) a list of names and titles of relevant Uber inside and outside counsel, and (3)
 a digest of third-parties present in its privilege log. Defense counsel will also be available for any
 questions the Special Master may have during the review process.

Uber timely notified Plaintiffs of its intention to clawback these documents. Uber has provided a privilege log and replacement images for all documents subject to its clawback request. Plaintiffs have identified three documents at issue that were originally logged as part of Tranches 1-4 (JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG001121, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG023201, and JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG054410). Uber is considering seeking relief and/or reconsideration from Judge Cisneros regarding any waiver claim. (ECF 2855). Accordingly, Uber respectfully requests that the Special Master defer ruling on these documents until the potential waiver issue is adjudicated and resolved before Judge Cisneros. The Special Master, however, should consider the privilege and work product claims applicable to the remainder of the documents at issue in this set.

II. Additional Factual Information Supports Uber's Privilege Assertions.

To provide additional factual support for its privilege assertions for JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG095858 and JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG094281, Uber submits the attached declaration from Scott Binnings, Uber’s Associate General Counsel, Safety and Core Services (Ex. A). These documents relate to safety features developed at Uber in partnership with Uber in-house counsel. The Special Master has previously ruled that similar documents³ are privileged. Defendants submit the Special Master should rule likewise as it pertains to these two documents.

As Mr. Binnings explains in his declaration, he was closely involved with the development of these safety features. The dominant purpose of his (as well as other in-house counsel's) relationship with the development teams was in identifying and advising on legal risks associated with the development and launch of the features. The program discussed in JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG095858 was viewed as a particularly complex feature from a legal perspective, as it raised an array of legal considerations spanning federal, state, and local legal issues, including where the feature could be tested and the experimental parameters that may be evaluated. JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG095858 was an update directed to Mr. Binnings in his capacity as then-Legal Director, Global Safety so he could

³ On April 28, 2025, in relation to the Kansal custodial documents, the Special Master ruled that four email chains (JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG079870, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG079712, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG079416, and JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG079417) were communications “sent for the purpose of obtaining and facilitating legal advice” and were privileged.

1 evaluate the status of the feature's launch and advise the development team on the legal risks
 2 associated with the plans for moving the feature forward. Mr. Binnings reviewed this specific
 3 document, and other similar updates, throughout the course of the feature's development to fulfill his
 4 role as in-house counsel on safety issues and advise the development team on legal risks of moving
 5 the feature forward.

6 Similarly, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG094281 is an email that summarizes the status and proposed
 7 launch of a feature intended to reduce incidents of interpersonal conflict on the Uber platform outside
 8 the United States, which he advised on to comply with legal and regulatory requirements.
 9 JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG094281 reflects Mr. Binnings' legal advice and work performed under his
 10 direction as the in-house counsel working on the release of the feature. He was deeply involved in,
 11 and provided legal advice and counsel for, the creation, testing and launch of this feature. This email
 12 facilitated his provision of legal advice concerning this model and ensured he concurred with the
 13 summary of the launch plan's legal and regulatory compliance.

14 Thus, the two documents addressed in Mr. Binnings' declaration are privileged because they
 15 were made during the course of an attorney-client relationship and were intended to facilitate the
 16 provision of legal advice. *See* Special Master's Ruling on Obj. (April 11, 2025) (quoting *Costco v. Wholesale Corp. Sup. Ct.*, 47 Cal. 4th 725, 740 (2009) ("If 'the communications were made during the course of an attorney-client relationship'--as opposed to a relationship with some other 'dominant purpose'--then 'the communications, including any reports of factual material, would be privileged, even though the factual material might be discoverable by some other means.'"). Moreover, the dominant purpose of the relationship between in-house counsel and the development team was attorney-client, rendering the challenged documents privileged. *See* Special Master's Ruling on Obj. (April 11, 2025) (quoting *McAdam v. State Nat. Ins. Co.*, 15 F. Supp. 3d 1009, 1015 (S.D. Cal. 2014) ("If the dominant purpose of the relationship was attorney-client at the time of the communications, they are privileged.")).

26 **III. Plaintiffs Did Not Timely Challenge the Privilege Claim for Seven Documents.**

In addition to the 10 documents submitted to the Special Master for review, Plaintiffs have also sought to challenge seven documents out of time.⁴ The Special Master should reject Plaintiffs' challenges as to these seven documents because they are untimely. These documents were clawed back on May 7. Plaintiffs provided their challenges to the May 7 clawback list on May 16. Not only did they not include any challenges for these seven documents, they affirmatively indicated that they had no challenge to these seven documents. There is no justification for a belated challenge here, particularly where any challenge is based on the testimony that Roger Kaiser provided during his April 22, 2025 deposition, before Plaintiffs decided that they had no challenges to these seven documents.⁵

The Special Master should uphold Uber's privilege claims as to each of the documents submitted for review.

DATED: June 2, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

SHOOK HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

By: /s/ Maria Salcedo
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⁴ These seven documents are JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089361, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089366, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089365, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089364, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089363, JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089362, and JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG089367.

⁵ Moreover, even if their challenges were timely, Defendants have appropriately withheld the documents based on attorney-client privilege and work product protection. The face of the documents makes clear that their purpose was to accelerate preparation for anticipated litigation and that they were prepared at the direction of counsel. In-house counsel, Jennifer Handley’s prior declaration corroborates this practice. She has previously explained that Mike Haas, in his role on Uber’s Safety Legal Special Investigations team, shares information at the legal team’s direction in order to facilitate the in-house team’s provision of legal advice because the in-house team anticipated the potential for future litigation regarding safety-related incidents. *See* Mar. 24, 2025 Handley Declaration at para. 2 (Dkt. 2605-1). The untimely challenged emails are examples of how information was shared at the legal team’s direction. Defendants’ interpretation of these documents as privileged and protected is also confirmed by the Special Master’s prior determinations. The Special Master has already determined that other “Global Serious Safety Incidents” email threads, like the ones at issue here, are privileged. Plaintiffs did not challenge those determinations and are beyond the time to do so. *See* Special Master’s Determinations for Custodian Kaiser at Line 64 (finding JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG019747 privileged); Special Master’s Determinations for Custodian Akamine at Line 2 (finding JCCP_MDL_PRIVLOG034217 privileged).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 2, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send notification of the filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Maria Salcedo
MARIA SALCEDO